

Starting an Alumni Chapter?

by John Bruce, Alumni Officer

More and more of late, various groups and individual Alumni have been coming to the Alumni office to ask how to get started on forming a program Alumni group.

There are three basic ingredients you need to get started: the goals, a core group of at least five individuals and, last but not least, some start-up money.

I'll deal with the last first. Each year in the Alumni budget, certain amounts are set aside to assist program Alumni groups in their start-up efforts. Because we don't have a lot to spread around, it's usually no more than \$100 or so. But when you're trying to get started, it's a big help.

The first item I've mentioned is goals. In other words, you have to decide exactly why you feel there should be an Alumni group for your program. Among the most popular goals are business networking, professional development and assisting current students as they make critical career decisions.

Your goal should NOT be to set up a social club with your ex-classmates. Social clubs don't contribute anything worthwhile to Mohawk College and that's what Alumni groups are really for: helping Mohawk continue to offer the finest education available in Ontario's Community College System.

Thus, you should ensure that your group's goals will have a definite positive impact on the College.

The other key element is a core group of people who share your reasons for starting up a program Alumni group and are willing to work hard to make it a reality.

This group faces a tough job in helping the Alumni Office get your program's Alumni mailing list up to date. We don't have the staff to do it all ourselves and therefore the core group members must be willing to come in and get on the phones to track down the graduates of your program.

Once your mailing list is in good shape it will be stored on our computerized records

system which can generate mailing labels in a matter of a few hours rather than a few days doing it on a typewriter. After you have de-

cided exactly what you want to send to your ex-classmates, we can have the printing done for you — at cost — and handle the mailing. But, again, in the case of high-volume programs like Nursing and some of the Business programs, we need your volunteers to help stuff envelopes, etc.

Those, in a nutshell, are the first basic steps involved in forming a program Alumni group. It's a lot of hard work at first — just ask the grads who started the Insurance Administration group — but the rewards are well worth it.

We in the Alumni Office welcome the development of program Alumni groups because they encourage more and more Alumni to renew their relationship with the College and make a meaningful contribution to its successful future.

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Interested in starting a program Alumni group?

Contact the Alumni office, Room C107, Fennell Campus, or call (416) 575-2258